

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

FAA AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0066

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0052

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E.O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PUBLIC OPINION CAMPAIGN IN SOUTHWEST OF  
FRANCE IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE S LANDING RIGHTS  
AT NEW YORK.

1. TOULOUSE BASED COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF CONCORDE IN  
COLLABORATION WITH THE TWO MOST INFLUENTIAL REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS  
IN THE SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE, SUD-OEST (BORDEAUX) AND  
LA DEPECHE DU MIDI (TOULOUSE), LAUNCHED A PUBLIC OPINION  
CAMPAIGN FEBRUARY 23-24 IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE S LANDING RIGHTS  
IN NEW YORK IN ANTICIPATION OF THE MARCH 10 DECISION OF THE  
NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY PORT AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE LANDING  
RIGHTS ISSUE. THE MAIN THRUST OF THE CAMPAIGN IS THREE-FOLD:  
FIRST, A NATIONAL PETITION ON PREPRINTED FORMS TO APPEAL TO  
AMERICAN CITIZENS TO SUPPORT CONCORDE S LANDING RIGHTS, SECOND,  
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ORGANIZATION OF A DRAWING CONTEST FRO FRENCH AND BRITISH CHILDREN  
UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE ON THE THEME CONCORDE, THE IMAGE OF  
PROGRESS , AND THIRD, THE VISIT BY A DELEGATION OF THE  
COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF CONCORDE TO NEW YORK ON MARCH 7TH  
TO PRESENT THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK WITH THE RESULTS OF THE PETITION  
CAMPAIGN.

2. THE SPOKESMEN FOR THE COMMITTEE, ALAIN KOPETZKI, WHO IS PRESIDENT, AND JEAN MICHEL FOURTANIER, WHO IS THE SECRETARY GENERAL, SUPPORTED BY THE PIONEER TEST PILOT ANDRE TURCAT DECLARED THE FOLLOWING IN TOULOUSE ON FEBRUARY 23: IT IS NO LONGER A QUESTION NOW OF DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT THIS AIRPLANE SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED FOR IT EXISTS AND HAS PROVEN ITSELF. WHAT IS IMPORTANT TODAY IS TO OBTAIN THE LANDING RIGHTS FOR CONCORDE AT KENNEDY AIRPORT IN CONFORMITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS. AIR FRANCE AND BRITISH AIRWAYS SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THEIR SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS. A ROUND TRIP DAILY FREQUENCY BETWEEN PARIS AND NEW YORK WOULD PRACTICALLY COMMERCIALIZE A CONCORDE AIRCRAFT. FOR ONE YEAR THE DELAYS ON THE PART OF THE NEW YORK AUTHORITIES HAVE CAUSED A SERIOUS LOSS OF REVENUE FOR THE TWO AIRLINES . THE COMMITTEE WANTS TO MAKE CONCORDE THE SYMBOL OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS OF FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN AND EUROPE IN THE 1980S TO FACE THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN BLOCS. THE ROLE OF PUBLIC OPINION IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF CONCORDE, THEREFORE OPERATION CONCORDE AT NEW YORK IS BEING LAUNCHED.

3. THE FRONT PAGE RED BANNERED EDITORIAL IN SUD-OUEST FEBRUARY 24 IS SUB-TITLED LET IT LAND IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH. THE MAIN LINES OF THE EDITORIAL FOLLOW:

4. BEGIN TEXT: ON MARCH 10TH THE NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY PORT AUTHORITY SHOULD MAKE THEIR DECISION ON EITHER OPENING THE DOOR, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, TO CONCORDE OR CLOSING IT, THIS TIME DEFINITELY. WHATEVER THE DECISION, THE DECISION WILL GO BEYOND CONCORDE ITSELF AND WILL PUT INTO QUESTION THE FUTURE

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OF THE FRENCH AND BRITISH AERONAUTIC INDUSTRIES. THIS IS WHY THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT REGIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPERS, ONE BRITISH THE BRISTOL EVENING POST AND THE TWO OTHERS, THE FRENCH LA DEPECHE DU MIDI AT TOULOUSE AND SUD-OUEST AT BORDEAUX HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE THEIR IMMEDIATE SUPPORT TO THE APPEAL LAUNCHED AT TOULOUSE BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF CONCORDE, WHICH APPEAL SHOULD IMMEDIATELY ENGAGE THE BRITISH AND FRENCH WORKERS IN THE AVIATION INDUSTRY.

5. THE THREE NEWSPAPERS, WITH MORE THAN ONE MILLION BUYERS AND A READERSHIP OF FOUR MILLION PEOPLE, HAVE NO POLITICAL OR PARTISAN OBJECTIVE. THE ONLY PURPOSE IS , LET IT LAND , THE ONLY THING BEING ASKED OF THE NEW YORKERS IS , GIVE IT A CHANCE . NOBODY KNOWS HOW THE SITUATION WILL EVOLVE BUT A GREAT DEAL DEPENDS ON THE DETERMINATION DEMONSTRATED IN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND IN OUR THREE REGIONS ( I.E. THE AQUITAINE, MIDI-PYRENEES AND BRISTOL). OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS TELL US THAT POPULAR INDIGNATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE CAN CHANGE

EVERYTHING. THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF CONCORDE IS NOT ALONE IN THIS BATTLE, OUR BRITISH FRIENDS ARE VERY ACTIVE, BUT EVEN IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE NUMEROUS ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH FAVOR THE LANDING OF CONCORDE AT NEW YORK, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS. ALSO OF INTEREST IS THE SUPPORT OF THE NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO. ACROSS THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE OTHER ALLIES SUCH AS DALLAS AND HOUSTON, ATLANTA, MIAMI AND CLEVELAND. HOWEVER, OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS ARE SURPRISED THAT WE HAVE NOT CAMPAIGNED MORE EFFECTIVELY IN FAVOR OF CONCORDE.

6. THE TIME HAS COME TO REASSURE OUR ALLIES. HOW CAN PUBLIC OPINION BE MOBILIZED IN GREAT BRITAIN ? THERE ARE MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND WORKERS WHO LIVE DIRECTLY FROM THE AEROSPATIALE INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE REGION OF BRISTOL, IN FRANCE THERE ARE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PERSONS OF WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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ALMOST THE HALF ARE IN THE TOULOUSE/BIARRITZ/BAYONNE/BORDEAUX TRIANGLE. CONCORDE EXISTS, IT IS FLYING AND EVEN AT WASHINGTON DULLES AIRPORT THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS HAS DECREASED REGULARLY TO ONLY 91 IN DECEMBER LESS PERHAPS IN JANUARY. NEW YORK, AMERICA S NATURAL PORT SHOULD NOW BE OPEN. WITHOUT NEW YORK NOTHING IS POSSIBLE: IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE GIVE THIS CAMPAIGN OUR SUPPORT. END TEXT.DJEREJIAN

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